

## **James A. Collins Speeches and Articles**

S284

after 1909-circa 1931, undated

1 folder

Rare Books and Manuscripts Division

Indiana State Library

Processed by: Christina Baich, April 2006

Finding aid updated: Edythe Huffman, 2015/11/13

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### **Biographical Note:**

James Adams Collins was born on October 12, 1870 in Arlington, Massachusetts. His parents were Joseph and Jane (LaVelle) Collins. In 1895, he married Lillie T. Knapp with whom he had two children, John and Elizabeth. That same year he moved to Indianapolis, Indiana where he entered the law office of Griffith & Potts. Prior to this move, Collins worked in Massachusetts and New York.

In 1899, Collins was appointed deputy prosecuting attorney. After two years, he became deputy prosecutor of the Police Court, where he remained for another two years. In 1904, he graduated from the Indianapolis Law School and began practicing at Averill & Collins. He was with the firm until 1909, when he was elected judge of the Indianapolis City Court. While judge of the Police Court, Collins instituted an adult probation system. In 1914, he was elected judge of the Marion County criminal court, a post he maintained for at least three terms. He died on December 4, 1946.

#### *Sources:*

Brown, Paul Donald, ed. Indianapolis Men of Affairs, 1923. Indianapolis: American Biographical Society, 1923.

Monks, Leander J. Courts and Lawyers of Indiana, Volume III. Indianapolis: Federal Publishing Co., 1916.

Thompson, Donald E., comp. Indiana Authors and their Books, 1967-1980. Crawfordsville, IN: Wabash College, 1981.

### **Scope and Content Note:**

The collection contains a typescript of an article by James Collins on the origin of the Indianapolis Juvenile Court as well as a number of printed pamphlets of speeches and articles by Collins. All the materials deal with the justice system, primarily the probation system that Collins first instituted in the Indianapolis city court.

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**Item Listing:**

[after 1909] "The Probation System in the City Court of Indianapolis," pamphlet  
1915 Apr. "Probation—A Practical Help to the Delinquent," reprinted from  
National Municipal Review, pamphlet  
1917 Oct. 1 "The State—An Offender," paper read before State Conference of  
Charities and Corrections at LaPorte, Ind., pamphlet  
1918 Oct. 5 "Looking Forward," address given while President of the Indiana State  
Conference of Charities and Corrections at Evansville, Ind., pamphlet  
1923 July 6 "Social Service in the Administration of Justice," pamphlet (2 copies)  
circa 1931 Article on Indianapolis Juvenile Court, typescript, 2 p.  
undated "A Plea for a Probation System in the Police Court," pamphlet

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**Collection Information:**

*Size of Collection:* 1 folder (7 items)  
*Collection Dates:* after 1909-circa 1931, undated  
*Provenance:* Indiana Historical Bureau, 23 February 1931  
*Access:* This collection is open for research.  
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